**George Washington's Presence**

**As president of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, George Washington did not feel free to enter the debates. This suited him. He was not a good public speaker. As a young man in the Virginia House of Burgesses, he had barely said a word. He had been equally silent in the Continental Congress in 1774 and 1775. But his commanding presence at every session of the convention was a powerful reminder to the delegates that they had gathered to create a stronger central government. (Thomas Fleming, in Reader's Digest)**